

prepolymer is a polyurethane prepolymer, effectively cures using a water spray as a result of compounding its polyisocyanate and its polyol constituents to (a) contain terminal isocyanate radicals, and (b) containing a total of isocyanate NCO radicals therein of about 1-5% by weight.

Claim 2 (amended) The moisture-curable forming material according to claim 1, wherein the moisture-curable urethane prepolymer contains 1-10% by weight of catalyst of a morpholino ethyl ether [type].

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain in the case. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to further delineate the invention.

The Amendment to claim 1 simply corrects a typographical error and correctly spells the word "isocyanate". The Amendment to claim 2 deletes the word "type".

Claim 2 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the expression "a morpholino ethyl ether type" was believed to render the claim vague and indefinite. The Amendment to the claim deleting the term "type" is believed to obviate this objection.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Hirano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,027,777), in view of Aoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,880,869). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the reasons hereinafter set forth.

The present invention resides in the unexpected discovery of an improvement in this previously known forming material, previously made by a method comprising coating granulated material with moisture-curable urethane prepolymer, sealed within a water-permeable material having smaller openings than the size of the granulated material. Surprisingly, curing can be